

In 1939 he made a winter ascent of Mount Banner and solo ascent of Mount Langley and, with his wife Evelyn Errett, an ascent of Popocatepetl in Mexico. In 1940 he made winter ascents of Mount Whitney and White Mountain. In 1947 he made an ascent of Ixtacihualt and another ascent of Popo.

In 1942 Chet Errett and Robert Brinton conducted the Mountaineering School at Belmont High School in Los Angeles, recruiting dozens of men for the Tenth Mountain Division. Chet and Bob wrote a syllabus for the course. Chet was an professional expert in rescue and gave detailed instruction.

In January, 1943, after months of recruiting others, Chet himself started out as a private in the army with the Tenth Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado. While still in the army, Chet graduated from the University of Chicago and was sent to Japan and Korea as an army fire-fighter. He had the title of Military Government Fire Chief of South Korea and was responsible for firefighting in over 85,000 square miles inhabited by 24 million people.

In 1952 Chet Errett was Fire Chief at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. He and Evelyn were part of a group of nine who attempted to climb the East Buttress of Mt. McKinley. After 27 days of traveling and climbing they were forced back to Camp V at 12,000 feet by a lack of food. In June and July, 1954, the Erretts made another unsuccessful attempt on Mount McKinley again with weather-related problems.

From October, 1954, to October, 1956, the Erretts were in Puerto Rico, where Chet held the position of Navy Fire Marshall. Chet and Evelyn became acquainted with Theodore Payne when he was still operating his nursery on Los Feliz Boulevard in Los Angeles and they were early (1961) members of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flower and Native Plants. They became active volunteers at the Sun Valley location. Evelyn eventually served as President of the Board of Directors and Chet as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds from about 1976 to 1984. The two were major participants in solving the zoning problems of the Theodore Payne Foundation. In 1980, when Chet was 75 years old, a fire threatened the Foundation grounds and, at 3 a.m., Chet went out to guide his old Engine Company to the nursery, saving the property from being destroyed.

After the death of his wife Evelyn, Chet's health failed, and the last few years of his life he lived a hermit-like existence in the airy Hollywood Hills home that he had contracted. The Erretts had no surviving children.

A friend, Shirley Docter, taped an interview with Chester Errett in 1984. She writes:

Chet was goal-oriented, a man of action, hard working, intensely loyal and loving a challenge. In remembering Chet and Evelyn, it is impossible to think of one without the other.

GLEN DAWSON

### HANS KRAUS 1906-1996

Dr. Hans Kraus died on March 5, 1996, in his home in New York City. He had been a member of the Club for 55 years. He was best known in the climbing world for his pioneering efforts in developing the Shawangunks. He also made early trips to the Wind Rivers, the Tetons and the Bugaboos.

Born in Trieste, Italy, he graduated from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1929 and emigrated to this country in 1938. Introduced to climbing by his father at a very early age, he was closely associated with two of the leading Italian climbers of their respective generations,

Emilio Comici and Gino Solda. Having climbed with these outstanding climbers in the Dolomites, he was trained in the use of double rope and artificial aid and introduced these techniques to the eastern climbing community after his arrival in the U.S.

Shortly after he came to New York City, he met with the late Fritz Wiessner, an Honorary Member of The American Alpine Club. Wiessner had recently "discovered" the "Gunks" and the two began a partnership and friendship that lasted for generations. Kraus, living in New York City, was the leading developer in the development of the 'Gunks from before WW II until the mid '50s. He did *High Exposure* and the *Directissima*. Although *High Exposure* is now rated 5.6, it was an extremely bold lead when first done by Kraus, armed with a hemp rope and what today we would consider to be very primitive pitons. On the original ascent he placed three pins on the top pitch. These two climbs are the ultimate Gunk classics. Kraus was also responsible for *Madam Grunebaum's* and a wide assortment of other climbs. *Hans' Puss* stood as the most difficult free climb in the Trapps area until the late 1950s.

In 1945 Kraus made a very productive trip to the northern Wind Rivers. He succeeded in doing new routes on the East Buttress of Gannett, the South Face of Woodrow Wilson and the South Ridge of the Sphinx. He did the first ascent of Skyline Peak, as well as the first west-to-east traverse of the Triple Traverse. The most notable climb that was done on this trip was a new route on the Tower Ridge of Mt. Helen. Jim Kelsey has called this "an elegant climb that has stood the test of time."

In the Tetons he did the first ascent of the North Face of Mt. Owen, as well as the first ascent of the West Face of Disappointment, a new route on the west ridge of Teepee's Pillar, and an early ascent of the East Ridge of the Grand Teton. In 1941 he did the fourth ascent of the North Face of the Grand Teton by a new variation and repeated the ascent in 1957. In 1941 he also climbed the North Ridge of the Grand and repeated that in 1947. In the 1950s he visited the Bugaboos on several occasions. His notable route in that area was the West Face of Snowpatch Spire. He continued climbing well into his 70s, stopped only by crippling osteoarthritis. He maintained an active interest in climbing until his death at the age of 90, and often said that he greatly regretted having to give up climbing before the advent of "sticky rubber."

Dr. Kraus' long and distinguished career as a pioneer and innovator in medicine no doubt overshadows his accomplishments in the climbing world.

He was trained in orthopedics in Vienna, but even before he came to this country he became interested in certain aspects of rehabilitative medicine. In Vienna, his circle of friends and patients included motorcycle racers and circus performers. When they were casted after fractures, he noted that they discarded the casts; they then seemed to heal faster than normal. This led Kraus into the area of immediate mobilization. This procedure is widely used now in orthopedics, but was considered very radical in those days.

Upon his arrival in New York City, he became closely associated with a group of brilliant orthopedists at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He initiated, along with his colleagues, one of the first extensive studies on the etiology of back pain. They were able to conclusively show that most lower back pain is related to muscle weakness and stiffness. In association with Dr. Sonia Weber, he developed the well-known Kraus-Weber test, which is still used extensively to this day. Dr. Kraus developed a unique (for that time) approach in treating muscle pain, especially in the lower back. This involved the treatment of "trigger points" by injection with xylocaine, followed by electrical stimulation and gentle physical therapy.

As a physician in private practice, he personally funded a study conducted in this country and in Austria, Italy, and Switzerland that showed American school children were significantly less

fit than similar groups in those countries. This study came to the attention of President Eisenhower and, after consulting with Dr. Kraus, President Eisenhower established the President's Counsel on Physical Fitness, which continues to the present day.

He was called upon to treat President John F. Kennedy and was virtually on call 24 hours a day during President Kennedy's term. Dr. Kraus was in the White House treating the President during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Unknown to the American public, the Presidents' back condition had become so serious at that particular time in history that he could barely stand. Dr. Kraus' treatments helped to alleviate the President's devastating back problems.

In his private practice, Dr. Kraus treated a great many celebrities, including movie stars and sports figures. One day he noticed that his office staff seemed highly excited when he interviewed a patient that he only knew as Mrs. Khan. He was no great movie fan; his staff quietly explained to him that Mrs. Khan was Rita Hayworth. The great American ski champion, Billy Kidd, has stated that Dr. Kraus' treatments made it possible for him to win his Olympic medal. No less an authority than the clinical Director of the famed Rusk Institute at New York University Hospital, Dr. Bruce Grynbaum, has called Dr. Kraus the "Father of sports medicine in the country."

In 1958 he married Madi Springer-Miller, who was one of the outstanding alpine skiers of her generation. His is survived by his wife; two daughters, a brother, and a sister.

He was a man of many talents with an incisive, inquiring intellect. With his death we see the passing of an era.

JAMES P. MCCARTHY

### SYLVANUS JOHN EBERT

1907-1996

John Ebert, founder of the Iowa Mountaineers, Inc., was one of the great legacies in American mountaineering. While living in the heartland of the Midwest, in the middle of silos and cornfields, 800 miles from the closest mountains, John and Ede Ebert founded one of the most reputable and active not-for-profit mountaineering clubs. In the club's 56-year history, over 78,000 people from all 50 states joined John and Ede on the ascents of 1,290 peaks in 17 countries. The Iowa Mountaineers had over 250 first ascents and 38 mountains ascended and named for the first time to its credit. It was the largest university mountaineering club in the world with over 5,200 members and 4,800 people trained yearly in the skills of rock climbing, mountaineering, ice climbing, hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing and winter mountain survival for academic credit.

Born in Richfield, Wisconsin, John Ebert grew up in Watertown, Wisconsin, as a youth. He excelled in baseball, ice hockey and tennis with abilities that took him to semiprofessional levels. But his real love was climbing in the mountains. At age 16 he hitchhiked to Colorado and ran up Pikes Peak, Mount Evans and Longs Peak, to name a few of the dozen peaks he climbed. He spent every waking hour during the summers of his youth climbing peaks and exploring mountains in the western states.

John later moved to Iowa City, Iowa, where he received his degree at the University of Iowa and worked full time at the University as the Chief Radio Engineer at WSUI. He met Ede at the University, and they were married in 1939. His inspiration to found a Midwestern mountaineering club was born while returning from a climbing trip to the Wind Rivers in 1939. John felt strongly that more people would go to the mountains if someone else did all the planning and provided safe, experienced mountain leadership. That fall John placed an ad in *The Daily Iowan*,